

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO ERDA GERMANTOWN IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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ERDA PASS N. SIEVERING, AI; R. ROBERTS, AA/NE; E. DELANEY, RRD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH

SUBJECT: EC DRAGON PROJECT - SALVAGE OF THE MATERIALS TESTING
PROGRAM

REF EC BRUSSELS 11244

1. PER TELEPHONE AND WRITTEN GUIDANCE FROM ERDA HQ (COMMERCIAL
CABLE MCDONOUGH TO GOLDNER NO. 0235 DATED 12/16/75), F. GOLDNER
OF ERDA BRUSSELS OFFICE, ATTENDED A MEETING AT THE GERMAN
NATIONAL LABORATORY KERNFORSCHUNGSANLAGE (KFA) JULICH TO
DISCUSS THE MATERIALS TESTING PART OF THE EC DRAGON PROJECT.

2. PER GUIDANCE, GOLDNER MADE IT CLEAR THAT HIS PRESENCE WAS
NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS INDICATING THAT ERDA HAD MADE A DECISION
ON WHETHER TO SUPPORT THE OVERALL DRAGON PROJECT, BUT RATHER
SOLELY TO DISCUSS WHAT IMMEDIATE ACTIONS COULD BE TAKEN TO
PROVIDE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE DRAGON FUNDED MATERIAL TESTING
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FACILITY IN OSLO AT THE CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

(CIIR) - IN WHICH HIGH TEMPERATURE GAS REACTOR MATERIAL SAMPLES OF INTEREST TO U.S. PROGRAMS ARE UNDER TEST, AND REQUIRE ADDITIONAL TEST TIME TO YIELD MEANINGFUL DATA.

3. AT ISSUE WAS AN IMMEDIATE STATED REQUIREMENT FOR FUNDING OF APPROXIMATELY 85,000 - 90,000 BRITISH POUNDS FOR 3 MONTHS SUPPORT (JANUARY-MARCH 1976) TO INSURE UNINTERRUPTED RUNNING OF THE DRAGON PROJECT MATERIALS PROGRAM THROUGH MARCH 31, 1976. THIS PROGRAM SUPPORTS TESTING IN NORWAY (CIIR) AND IN ITALY (FIAT AT TURIN). WITHOUT IMMEDIATE FUNDING, THE SUBJECT FACILITIES WOULD HAVE TO BE DISPOSED OF BY MARCH 31, 1976.

4. PER GUIDANCE (FROM E. DELANEY OF ERDA-RRD), GOLDNER INDICATED FUNDING UP TO THE AMOUNT NEEDED TO CONTINUE RUNNING THE CIIR TEST RIGS (APPROXIMATELY \$15,000 PER MONTH) COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE BY TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM AN EXISTING ERDA PROGRAM - EXPRESSLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING THE OSLO FACILITY OPERATION.

5. THE GERMAN KFA LABORATORY OFFERED 50,000 BRITISH POUNDS IF THE MONEY COULD BE ACCEPTED BEFORE THE END OF CY 1975. THE EC FACILITY, RCN PETTEN, IN THE NETHERLANDS, OFFERED 10,000 BRITISH POUNDS. WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF \$15,000 PER MONTH FOR THREE MONTHS (APPROXIMATELY 22,000 BRITISH POUNDS) FROM A US SOURCE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE MATERIALS PROGRAM APPEARED POSSIBLE. A TELEX FROM KFA FORMALLY PROPOSING THE ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE SENT TO THE CONCERNED PARTIES ON DECEMBER 17, 1975.

6. WE UNDERSTAND ANOTHER MEETING IS SCHEDULED ON DEC 17 AT KFA JULICH TO DISCUSS THE FUEL DEVELOPMENT PART OF THE DRAGON PROJECT. THE GERMANS ARE AGAIN APPARENTLY WILLING TO PROVIDE DIRECT FUNDING SUPPORT TO SALVAGE A PART OF THE PROGRAM OF DIRECT INTEREST TO THEM.

COMMENT. A. THE FATE OF THE DRAGON PROJECT, SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETE TERMINATION BY MARCH 31, 1976, APPARENTLY WAS NOT DISCUSSED IN THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING ON DEC 15 (REFTEL) ALTHOUGH SEVERAL PARTIES PRESENT KNEW OF THE DEC 16 MEETING DISCUSSED ABOVE.

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B. IT THEREFORE APPEARS THAT FRG IS NOT WORKING THROUGH THE EC CHANNELS TO EFFECT SALVAGE OF PART OF THE DRAGON PROJECT BUT RATHER IS OPTING FOR MORE DIRECT CONTROL OF CERTAIN PARTS IMPORTANT TO IT THROUGH DIRECT FUNDING SUPPORT. END COMMENT. MORRIS

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